

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Canceled.)

21. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher, comprising:

a tub for accommodating dishes for washing;

a sump housing receiving water for dishwashing, the sump housing coupled to the bottom of the tub;

a wash motor mounted to the outer bottom surface of the sump housing and having a motor shaft extended into the sump housing by passing through the bottom surface of the sump housing from the wash motor;

a wash pump located within the sump housing, the wash pump including:

a pump case; and

an impeller for pumping the water for dishwashing within the pump case, wherein the impeller is connected to an end of the motor shaft;

a sealing case upwardly extended from an inner bottom surface of the sump housing;

a sealing cover fitted within the sealing case and penetrated by the motor shaft; and

an air cap covering the sealing case and the sealing cover and penetrated by the motor shaft,

wherein the air cap has a space therein for accommodating air, in order to prevent the water for dishwashing from being drawn into the sealing case, and the air cap includes:

an upper plate;

a motor shaft through-sleeve extending upward by a predetermined diameter and height from the upper plate, the motor shaft through surrounding the motor shaft to be in close contact with the outer surface of the motor shaft;

an outer wall extending downward from an edge of the upper plate; and

an inner wall extending down ward from the bottom surface of the upper plate,

wherein the inner wall is defined within the outer wall by being a predetermined distance away from the outer wall such that a void space is formed between the inner wall and the outer

wall.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim 21 [[22]], wherein end portions of the outer wall and the inner wall are respectively a predetermined distance away from the inner bottom surface of the sump housing such that air and the water for washing dishes are drawn into the air cap.

24. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher according to claim 21 [[22]], wherein the sealing case is configured to be received in the space defined by the inner wall of the air cap.

25. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 21, wherein the sealing cover is bent downward to be in close contact with the inner bottom of the sump housing, and has a space therein to receive sealing oil.

26. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher according to claim 25, wherein an inner circumference of the sealing cover, which is in contact with the motor shaft, has a plurality of sealing lips which are firmly pressed to the outer surface of the motor shaft, in order to block off the water for washing into the sealing cover.